तम्बाकू बोर्ड एफ सी वी तम्बाकू की उपज और गुणवत्ता में सुधार करने के लिये एक योजना कार्यान्वित कर रहा है । वर्ष 1993–94 के दौरान यह योजना आंध्र प्रदेश में 7100 हैक्टेयर क्षेत्र में और कर्नाटक में 2307 हैक्टयर क्षेत्र में कार्यान्वित की जा रही थी । वर्ष 1993–94 के दौरान योजना के तहत बजटीय परिव्यय 29.5 लाख रुपये का था ।

पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान देश में एफसीवी तम्बाक के प्रति हैक्टेयर औसत उत्पादन में वृद्धि की प्रवृत्ति रही है, जैसा कि नीचे दर्शाया गया है :

वर्ष	उत्पादकता (किग्रा०/है०)
1990–91	895
1991–92	1037
1992–93	1129

Supply of goods on Barter Exchange by Russian Companies

3657. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of Russian Companies were contracted by Government to supply goods to India on barter exchange basis without involving any monetary payment;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof, including the names of the Companies and the total amount involved;

(c) whether the agreement has ceased to exist;

(d) if not by what time commitments from both the sides are likely to be over;

(e) whether similar agreements were reached with other East European countries as well; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the present position in relation thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) : No Sir.

(b) to (d) : Questions do not arise.

(e) : No Sir.

(f) Question does not arise.

Export of Super Quality 'Durum Wheat'

3658. SHRI AHMED MOHMEDBHAI PATEL :
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI :
SHRI SOM PAL :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether 3,00,000 tonnes of super quality 'Durum' wheat was exported during the current financial year;

(b) if so, whether Government is proposing to export larger quanitities of better quality wheat and other crops-in the 1994 and onwards;

(c) if so, what was the totel increase in foreign exchange earned during 1993 in farm sector;

(d) whether any strategy has been worked out by Government to promote the higher value on better quality farm products and to promote cultivation and export

of these products including ensuring minimum support prices and providing authentic seeds to growers;

(e) if so, what are the main points of this new strategy;

(f) what are the countries where farm exports have been on the increase; and

(g) what are the items that have been in demand for export in the farm sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) A negligible quanity of less than 100 MTs was exported in 1993-94.

(b) and (c) As per DGCI&S Statistics, export of agricultural commodities (excluding cotton) during April-December, 1993 was around US$ 1690 million as against US$ 1290 million in the comparative period in 1992. It is proposed to maintain the quantitative ceiling of 3,00,000 tonnes for export of 'Durum' wheat in1994-95. It is also proposed to substantially step up exports from the agricultural sector in 1994-95.

(d) and (e) Recent steps taken by Government to promote higher value products include liberalisation in exports of 'Durum' wheat, wheat products, superfine varieties of Non-Basmati rice etc. The seeds Policy has also been liberalised to ensure supply of better quality seeds to the farmers. Various Commodity Board under the Ministry of Commerce like Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) Spices Board and Tobacco Board have introduced schemes for quality upgradation and improved pro**cess**ing, handling and transportatio . An **ai**l freight subsidy has also been introduced for some fruits. These export measures provide the farmers with an expanded market and hence the possibility of a higher price.

(f) and (g) The major items of farm produce for export from India are deoiled cakes, rice, cashew, fruits and vegetables, spices, tobacco, etc. and the major destinations being countries in West Asia, South East Asia, USA and Europe.

Opposition to the Withdrawal of International Price Reimbursement Scheme

3659. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the statement of the Chairman, Engineering Export Promotion Council, opposing the move for the withdrawal of the International Price Reimbursement Scheme as reported in "Patrika" of January 31, 1994; and

(b) if so, what were the precise objections of the EEPC to the withdrawal of the scheme and what is Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) Government's attention has been drawn to Press Communique by Chairman, EEPC on 28-1-94. This has highlighted the perception that withdrawal of IPRS will adversely affect the exports of engineering goods. IPRS had to be withdrawn as no viable mechanism of funding the Scheme could be